

From: Christopher Wassman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 5:18pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

First of all, I am opposed to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust trial.

I do not feel that the current proposed settlement fully punishes the actions committed by Microsoft in the past, nor does it inhibit their ability to commit similar actions in the future. This troubles me greatly, as it should trouble all Americans.

The US Department of Justice should also be made aware of the "freedom to innovate" campaign by Microsoft is specifically aimed at 'buying' public opinion in this case. This massive effort by Microsoft will undoubtedly result in increased support of Microsoft's monopolistic practices. If Microsoft's competitors had the same money and distribution medium that Microsoft already possesses, through its monopoly, to advertise and buy public opinion then there would be little issue for the DOJ to decide upon. But that's just the point, there is a monopoly here, Microsoft is a monopoly, and the current settlement amounts to very little to Microsoft and will do very little to break up this monopoly nor to balance the playing field whatsoever.

The majority of the provisions within the settlement only formalize the status quo. Furthermore, none of the provisions will effectively prohibit Microsoft from abusing its current monopoly position in the operating system market. This is especially important in view of the seriousness of Microsoft's past transgressions.

Most importantly, the proposed settlement does nothing to correct Microsoft's previous actions. Also, there are no provisions that correct or redress their previous abuses. They only try to prohibit the future repetition of those abuses. This is not right. If a person or organization is able to commit illegal acts, benefit from those acts and then receive as a "punishment" instructions that they cannot commit those acts again, they have still benefited from their illegal acts. The current settlement is not justice, not for those people and corporations who have suffered from the abuses of Microsoft and not for the American people in general.

While the Court's desire that a settlement be reached is well intentioned, it is wrong to reach an unjust settlement just for settlement's sake. A wrong that is not corrected is a wrong that is compounded two-fold. I urge the Court to not accept this settlement agreement.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christopher D. Wassman, Software Engineer
6772 Findley Cir
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
415 577-1786
c_wassman@hotmail.com

Chat with friends online, try MSN Messenger: <http://messenger.msn.com>